

REMARKS

Applicants have studied the Office Action dated March 10, 2008, and have made amendments to the claims. It is submitted that the application, as amended, is in condition for allowance. Claims 1-20 are pending. Claims 1, 2, 7, 9, 10, 14-16, and 20 have been amended. Reconsideration and allowance of the claims in view of the above amendments and the following remarks are respectfully requested.

The disclosure was objected to because of an "informality". The specification has been amended as suggested by the Examiner. No new matter has been added. It is submitted that the specification fulfills all the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 112. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that the objection to the disclosure should be withdrawn.

Claims 1, 3-6, 9, 11-13, 15, and 17-19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Worth (U.S. Patent No. 5,881,225). Claims 2, 7, 10, 14, 16, and 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Worth in view of Numano (U.S. Patent No. 7,194,631). Claim 8 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Worth in view of He et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,088,451). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

The present invention is directed to an efficient and easy-to-implement method for authenticating one user or class of users and then authorizing access as a different user or class of users. A user can select another user and/or class of users to switch to at login time, such that the identity switching operation can be performed in one step. Identity switching can also be performed within a system after login has occurred. An audit trail is created for a user for any actions taken regardless of the user's present system identity.

One embodiment of the present invention provides a method for switching identity of a user that has a first username associated with a first class of users. According to the method, login information is received from the user, with the login information including the first username, an

alternate class, and a password. The first username and the alternate class are received as part of a user identification input of the login information entered by the user. The user is authenticated based on the first username and the password, and access to the computer system is provided as the alternate class, with the alternate class being different than the first class.

Another embodiment of the present invention provides a system for switching identity of a user that has a first username associated with a first class of users. The system includes an interface receiving login information from the user, and a processor. The login information includes the first username, an alternate class, and a password. The first username and the alternate class are received as part of a user identification input of the login information entered by the user. The processor authenticates the user based on the first username and the password, and provides access to the computer system as the alternate class.

The Worth reference is directed toward security functions for controlling functional access to a computer system. However, Worth does not disclose a method for switching identity of a user in which login information including a first username, an alternate class, and a password is received from the user, the user is authenticated based on the first username and the password, and access is provided to the computer system as the alternate class, with the alternate class being different than the first class, and the first username and the alternate class being received as part of a user identification input of the login information entered by the user, as is recited in amended claim 1. Amended claims 9 and 15 contain similar recitations.

The Worth reference is directed toward security functions for controlling functional access to a computer system. In the system of Worth, users are authorized access to a computer system by providing a proper user name, a password, and a desired role from among those authorized for that user. Upon being authorized with initial access to the computer system, or simultaneously therewith, a subprogram collects information relating to the user such as which role that user is assuming during that login session, and to which group or groups the user belongs. That information is then passed to a security monitor program. When a process or application program is requested by a user to be

executed, or when a user requests access to sensitive data, the security monitor is queried and responds with information indicative of whether access should be granted, based on the authorization information passed to it soon after the user logged into the system.

Thus, Worth explicitly teaches that a user first enters login information that includes a unique ID assigned to the user and a password. Once this login information is entered by the user, the system compares the login information to authorization information that was previously stored within the system. If the login information matches the previously stored information, the user is **then** given the opportunity to enter a role that the user desires to assume for the current login session.

In contrast, in embodiments of the present invention, the first username and the alternate class are received as part of a user identification input of the login information entered by the user. Amended claim 1 recites “receiving login information from the user, the login information including the first username, an alternate class, and a password, the first username and the alternate class being received as part of a user identification input of the login information entered by the user”. Amended claims 9 and 15 contain similar recitations. Thus, in embodiments of the present invention, the first username and alternate class are entered together as part of the user ID input of the login information. In the system of Worth, a user ID is entered as part of the user ID login information and it is not until after the user enters the user ID (alone) and the password that the user can select from a given set of roles.

The following image shows differences between the present invention and the system of Worth.

| | |
|-----------|---|
| User ID: | <input type="text" value="jdoe:admin"/> |
| Password: | <input type="text" value="*****"/> |

Present Invention

| | |
|-----------|------------------------------------|
| User ID: | <input type="text" value="jdoe"/> |
| Password: | <input type="text" value="*****"/> |

| | |
|-------|------------------------------------|
| Role: | <input type="text" value="admin"/> |
|-------|------------------------------------|

System of Worth

As can be seen in these figures, in Worth the user is required to first enter a user ID and a password. Only after the system of Worth is able to authenticate the user is the user then given the ability to enter a role. However, in the present invention, the user enters both the username and role information at the same time as part of the user identification login information. Accordingly, the present invention distinguishes over Worth.

Applicants believe that the differences between Worth and the present invention are clear in amended claims 1, 9, and 15, which set forth various embodiments of the present invention. Therefore, claims 1, 9, and 15 distinguish over the Worth reference, and the rejection of these claims under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) should be withdrawn.

As discussed above, amended claims 1, 9, and 15 distinguish over the Worth reference. Furthermore, all of the claimed features of the present invention are not realized even if the teachings of Numano or He are incorporated into Worth. Neither Numano nor He teaches or suggests the claimed features of the present invention that are absent from Worth. Thus, claims 1, 9, and 15 distinguish over Worth, Numano, and He, and thus, claims 2-8, 10-14, and 16-20 (which depend from claims 1, 9, and 15, respectively) also distinguish over Worth, Numano, and He.

Furthermore, it is submitted that limitations in the dependent claims are absent from Worth, Numano, and He. For example, with respect to claims 2, 10, and 16, the Examiner correctly recognizes that Worth does not teach that "the login information further includes a second username, and in the providing step, access to the computer system is provided (by the processor) with the rights and privileges of the second username". However, the Examiner takes the position that Numano teaches this feature of the present invention, stating:

Numano discloses an invention which allows for user switching (col 1, lines 60-63), wherein a first user having a first username and password (col 4, lines 36-40) switches to a second user by providing login information including a second user name and password (col 6, lines 1-12). Once, the second username and password has been authenticated, access to the computer system is provided by a processor with the rights and privileges of the second username (col 5, lines 57-67; col 7, lines 11-17; and col 8, lines 40-47). Note that in the user switching example which spans columns 6-7 of Numano, a switch from a user having a role/class of "administrator" to one having a role/class of "user" is performed. After the switch, access to the computer system is given with the rights and privileges of the "user" class. Note that the user switching performed by Numano also results in a role switch.

However, Numano only teaches a switching function that can be used when a first user is currently logged in to allow a second user to log in. Nowhere does Numano teach or suggest that a user can enter a first user name, a second user name, and an alternate class together as a single input. The entire focus of Numano is to give a second user a login screen when a first user was already logged in. A single user is not entering a first username and a second username into the User ID Field. Amended claim 2 recites:

wherein the login information further includes a second username entered by the user as part of the user identification input in addition to the first username and the alternate class, and
in the providing step, access to the computer system is provided with the rights and privileges of the second username.

Amended claims 10 and 16 contain similar recitations. This claimed feature allows a user to enter his username, the username of another user, and an alternate class all together, as shown in the following figure.

The figure shows a rectangular box representing a login interface. Inside the box, there are two input fields. The first field is labeled 'User ID:' and contains the text 'jdoe:brianc:admin'. The second field is labeled 'Password:' and contains the text '*****'.

Nowhere does Numano teach this claimed feature. Numano only teaches that a first user is logged in, then a switching function is used to allow a second user to log in while the first user is still logged in. Numano does not teach or suggest "the login information further includes a second username entered by the user as part of the user identification input in addition to the first username and the alternate class".

Further, with respect to claims 7, 14, and 20, the Examiner correctly recognizes that "Worth does not explicitly disclose wherein in the receiving interface/step, the first username and alternate class are entered into a singled data field so that identity switching is accomplished in one user step."

However, the Examiner takes the position that Numano teaches this feature of the present invention, stating:

Numano discloses a receiving interface (Fig 2, item 511; Fig 3, item 511; and Fig 4, item 511) which allows all the login information (i.e. user name and password) to be entered into a single data field (i.e. login GUI 511) so that identity switching is accomplished in one user step. One skilled in the art having common sense and

creativity would have found it obvious to apply Numano's teachings to other types of login information other than just usernames and passwords.

A "data field", as recited in the claims, is an input field such as the "User ID" field shown in the above figures. Allowing a user to enter a user id in one data field and a password in another data field, as taught by Numano, is not the same as the feature that "the first username and alternate class are entered into a single data field so that identity switching is accomplished in only one user step.". Amended claim 7 recites "in the receiving step, the first username and alternate class are entered into a single data field as a single character string so that identity switching is accomplished in only one user step." Amended claims 14 and 20 contain similar recitations. Nowhere does Numano or Worth teach or suggest entering the first username and alternate class into a single data field as a single character string.

Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that the rejections of claims 1-20 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) and 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) should be withdrawn.

No amendment made was related to the statutory requirements of patentability unless expressly stated herein. No amendment made was for the purpose of narrowing the scope of any claim, unless Applicants have argued herein that such amendment was made to distinguish over a particular reference or combination of references.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the application and the claims are in condition for allowance. Reexamination and reconsideration of the application, as amended, are requested.

If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at (561) 989-9811 should the Examiner believe a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the application.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: July 10, 2008

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